

S.D. Family Focus

An update for South Dakota
Service Members &
Families!



JUNE 2013

1-800-658-3930

SUMMER RECREATION!

Active duty, Guard, and Reserve military members and their immediate families can visit museums across the nation for free throughout the summer. For more information or to find a museum near you visit:
[http://www.bluestarfam.org/Programs/Blue Star Museums](http://www.bluestarfam.org/Programs/Blue_Star_Museums)



Armed Forces Recreation Center (AFRC) full-service resort hotels are Joint Service Facilities that provide quality, wholesome, affordable, Family-oriented vacation recreation opportunities to service members, their families, and other authorized patrons (including official travelers) of the Total Defense Force. If you plan on packing up and taking a vacation, please visit <http://www.armymwr.com/travel/recreationcenters/> for information about affordable resorts for your family.

Service Members and their families can enjoy the scenery and recreation in national parks for free, if eligible for an **annual pass**. For more information go to: <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/military.html>

As a very small way of saying "Thank You" for all of the hard work and sacrifices men and women in the military make, campgrounds and RV parks around the nation would like to offer **free** camping for active military. Please visit the tents for Troops Website to find a participating park where you wish to spend some R & R. Active military (Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve) will be required to present active military I.D. at the time of check in. The offer is for active military and members of their immediate family only. Please call the park directly for reservations. **Reservations are required.**
<http://www.tentsfortroops.org/>



ARMY LODGING

Whether you are serving in the Guard or Reserve, on active duty, or enjoying retired life, the South Dakota National Guard's Army Lodging Program is a service you can take advantage of. If you're planning a trip to the Black Hills or Sioux Falls area, take a look at the accommodations and savings the Army Lodging Program can provide you with.

Camp Rapid

Army Lodging at Camp Rapid is centrally located in the Black Hills with 32 semi-private and two private rooms. The private rooms offer two rooms, a bedroom and a sitting room with a fold out sofa-sleeper. Each room has cable television and Wi-Fi.

Fort Meade

Army Lodging at Fort Meade, located east of Sturgis and just six miles off Interstate 90, offers 35 semi-private rooms and 20 private rooms with full-size bath, cable television, refrigerators and high speed Internet.

Army Lodging at Fort Meade is perfect for visitors to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Devils Tower, historic Lead/Deadwood, visiting the Black Hills for shopping, gambling, skiing or snowmobiling. For those traveling on business, the Fort Meade Veterans Hospital is within walking distance and a short commute to Camp Rapid and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Sioux Falls

Army Lodging in Sioux Falls offers 20 semi-private and 20 private rooms with cable television, high-speed Internet and refrigerators.

Army Lodging in Sioux Falls is convenient to many area attractions including the Sioux Falls Convention Center, the Sioux Falls Arena and the Great Plains Zoo and less than a one-mile drive to Sioux Falls Regional Airport.

Cost:

Semi-Private \$32/night

Private \$34/night

*DVQ \$38/night

For Reservations:

Camp Rapid & Fort Meade..... (605) 737-6626

Sioux Falls..... (605) 357-2845

*DVQ—Distinguished Visitors Quarters—available to all E9's, CW5's, O6 and above and to both state and out-of-state dignitaries.



For more information on lodging (billeting, classrooms, firing range, dining, etc.) visit <http://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/pages/lodging.aspx> or contact John Adkins at: john.e.adkins12.nfg@mail.mil

COMMUNITY PURPLE AWARD

Annually the Service Member and Family Support Office of the South Dakota National Guard selects a community group or organization that best exemplifies “the Purple concept” of Joint Family Programs operations – which means working with both the Army and the Air National Guard.

2012 marked the 11th year that St. Elizabeth Seton students have been making care packages for service members, and the 6th year they have been doing the Pillow Case Project with nearly 200 pillowcases and some 250 packages mailed.



What Service Member and Family Support truly wants to do is recognize the commitment of their school; the staff, the students and the parents because it was this joint effort that made a difference to all service members who received a package or a pillow case from them. We want to applaud their spirit, patriotism and their understanding that the power of a simple act can change lives.

GI BILL

A significant change will take place after 1 August 2013: ARNG Soldiers will be required to obligate themselves to 4-years of service if they desire to transfer any portion of their Post-9/11 GI Bill to dependants. ARNG Soldiers have the option, however, of committing to a lesser military service obligation if transferring their benefit prior to 1 August 2013 and retirement eligible during the period of 1 August 2009 through 1 August 2013. Therefore, if you intend to transfer your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to a dependent, it is in your best interest to do it immediately. TEB eligible Soldiers should also be aware that failure to complete and return

all required documentation (Service extensions and or Statement of Understanding acknowledging their service commitment) to the GI Bill Support Team before 1 August 2013 will have their TEB request denied for not having a 4-year service commitment.

More Information on Transferring the Post 9/11 GI Bill to Your Dependents is available at http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/transfer_of_benefits.html

For additional information please contact Cami Bloomgren at: 605-737-6212 or email camillia.m.bloomgren.mil@mail.mil

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2013 Family Readiness Volunteer Training and State Youth Symposium will be held September 28-29 in Sioux Falls. The theme will be "Survivor".

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. More information coming soon!

For more information please contact Lynn Wright at: 605-737-6089 or email lynn.l.wright.mil@mail.mil

**“Volunteers
do not have
more time
—they just
have more
heart.”**

ANONYMOUS

MILITARY ONESOURCE

Welcome Readers,

In the June edition of The Exceptional Advocate, you'll meet an Air Force father who has never given up on finding just the right support for his son even in the most challenging of situations. You'll also find tips for adapting summertime games and sports for inclusive participation, ways to keep your children safe in the water and ideas for exploring America's national parks as a family. Plus, learn about operational risk management and travel, post-traumatic stress disorder and more in this issue.

To view the interactive flip version of The Exceptional Advocate, click on the link below.

<http://apps.militaryonesource.mil/efmp/book/2013/June>

You may also view the html version of The Exceptional Advocate by clicking on the link below.

<http://apps.militaryonesource.mil/efmp/news>

If clicking on the link does not work, please copy and paste the entire link into your browser window.



NATIONAL GUARD GOLD AWARD

South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Office

Gloria Doohen of Sioux Falls, S.D., wife of former South Dakota National Guard Adjutant General Steve Doohen, received the prestigious National Guard Bureau Gold Award on May 24, 2013. The annual award is presented to one individual who shows long-term, consistent and dedicated support volunteering with the National Guard Family Program.

“Mrs. Doohen’s efforts have touched so many, from a family needing groceries, to a child hugging a bear to ease the separation from a parent, or a veteran who needed that gift of hope,” said Lynn Wright, S.D. National Guard’s family program senior family readiness support assistant.

Mrs. Doohen spent more than 30 years volunteering with the S.D. National Guard, much of that time with the family program. She hosted monthly luncheons for families, and championed the “Banner Project of Our SD Fallen Heroes of This War” campaign. During the development of this campaign, she personally visited all 35 families of South Dakota’s fallen heroes. When her banner project was unveiled in 2009, the families of all, of the then, 26 heroes attended.

“Gloria’s dedication to the families of our Soldiers and Airmen has been unfailing,” said Brig. Gen. Ted Johnson, director of the Joint Staff, during the award presentation.

Mrs. Doohen continues to be an active volunteer with numerous community services, never failing to spread a message of compassion and humanity.





COMING TO RAPID CITY

Co-sponsored by Catholic Social Services, United Way of the BH, Life, Inc. and SDSU West River Ag Center



Do you want to...

- Help your children succeed in the future?
- Maintain a positive relationship with your children during the teen years?

You and your child will...

- Help develop skills to handle peer pressure for a positive future.
- Grow as a family & have FUN together!

Program Dates:
 July 11, 18, 25
 Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 Or
 Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
 Nov. 7, 14

Time:
 Free Meal Served at 5:30 pm
 Program Starts at 6:00 pm

Location:
 Canyon Lake
 United Methodist Church
 3500 Canyon Lake Drive
 Rapid City, SD 57702

Want to know more? CONTACT INSTRUCTORS



Lena Abourezk
 Instructor
 MS, NCC, LPC,
 QMHP, CDCT



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605-348-6086

Email to: css@cssrapidcity.com

Registration Limited—Sign up today!

